



## EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA: BETWEEN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE

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### Abstract

*Education in Indonesia faces major challenges, including disparities in access and quality between urban and rural areas. This article discusses these challenges and opportunities for transformation through the use of technology, strengthening character education, and developing 21st-century skills. By adapting technology- and skills-based curricula, and strengthening collaboration between the government, private sector, and communities, Indonesian education can be more inclusive and relevant to future needs.*

**Keywords:** *Educational transformation, educational technology, character education, 21st century skills.*

### INTRODUCTION

Education in Indonesia faces various challenges that hinder the achievement of equity and optimal quality. Although the government has taken various steps to improve the education system, there are still significant differences between regions, and there are large gaps in access and quality of education available to students in different regions. In this context, educational transformation is not just a change in methods, but also an effort to solve fundamental problems that have long been embedded in the Indonesian education system. The purpose of this article is to examine the challenges that exist in the Indonesian education system and the opportunities that can be utilized to create a more equitable and quality education in the future. Through this understanding, it is hoped that recommendations for developing more effective education policies that are in accordance with the needs of the times can be found.

### CHALLENGES OF INDONESIAN EDUCATION

Education in Indonesia still faces many major challenges, both in terms of access, quality, and relevance of the curriculum to the needs of the community. Based on the 2022 edition of the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud), although the level of education participation in Indonesia is increasing, the disparity in education between urban areas and 3T areas (outermost, remote, and disadvantaged) is still very pronounced. In addition, the quality of education is often lower in remote areas due to limited facilities and trained teachers [1].

- A. Inequality of access to education Although the government has made efforts to increase access to education for the underprivileged through programs such as the Smart Indonesia Card (KIP), geographical and economic disparities still hinder equal education. For example, in some remote areas, many children do not have access to quality education due to limited infrastructure and transportation [2].
- B. Teacher Quality and Learning One of the biggest challenges in Indonesia's education system is teacher quality. Based on the findings of the Program for International Student Assessment

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(PISA) in 2018, the quality of education in Indonesia is still lagging behind neighboring countries in Southeast Asia. Most teachers in Indonesia still use traditional teaching methods that fail to realize technology-based learning and 21st century skills [3].

**OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**

Although the challenges faced are not small, there are various opportunities that can be utilized to transform education in Indonesia. One of them is the use of technology in education. The digital transformation driven by the industrial revolution 4.0 offers great opportunities to expand access and improve the quality of education [4].

1. **Technology as a learning tool** The use of technology in education can be a solution to bridge the educational gap in various fields. The rapid development of online learning programs during the COVID-19 pandemic shows that distance learning can be carried out effectively, even in remote areas. The government must ensure better internet infrastructure and train teachers on how to use technology in the learning process [5].
2. **Character education and soft skills** In addition to technology, strengthening character education and developing soft skills in educational programs is also important. In the context of increasingly tight global competition, developing skills such as leadership, creativity and communication skills are very important. Therefore, programs based on personality development and soft skills will bring long-term benefits to students [6].

**THE FUTURE OF INDONESIAN EDUCATION**

The future of Indonesian education will be greatly influenced by the country's ability to adapt quickly and effectively to changing times. One of the main driving factors is the application of technology in education, helping education become more personal, flexible, and accessible to everyone, everywhere. Through technology-based learning, students can learn at their own pace and learning style, thus increasing learning efficiency [7].

- A. **Competency-Based Curriculum Development** In addition, it is important to revise the curriculum to focus more on developing 21st century skills. A curriculum that focuses more on problem solving, critical thinking and creativity will be more relevant to the needs of the future world of work [8].
- B. **Community and private sector involvement** It is also important to involve the private sector in educational transformation, through CSR programs, investment in human resource development or collaboration in professional education and training programs. Collaboration between government, schools and the private sector can create a more inclusive and sustainable educational ecosystem [9].

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The process of education transformation in Indonesia is a long journey involving various aspects, from education policy to profound social change. The challenges ahead are enormous, but the opportunities are much greater. The use of technology, strengthening character education, and developing a curriculum that focuses on 21st century skills are strategic steps that can accelerate the transformation of education in Indonesia. Therefore, it is important for the government, society, and the private sector to work together to create an education ecosystem that is more inclusive and more responsive to current developments. Policies that prioritize equal access to education, improving teacher quality, and adapting to technology will be the key to the success of education transformation in the future.



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